



VOLUME XXXV NUMBER IV  
Way of the Lord V

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

Scripture: Matthew 15:1-9, Matthew 5:38,39

Matthew 15:1-9 speaks about traditions of the church that Jesus had to face. Verse 6 sums up their condition when Jesus said, “*Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition.*” We are in the same condition today because we have been taught to “turn-the-other-cheek” and rarely resist evil. Matthew 5:38,39 says, “*You have heard that it was said, ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.’ But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also.*” An essential reason that God developed a relationship with Abraham was so man could keep the way of the Lord, walking in righteousness so he could do judgment. Representing the authority of heaven means both doing righteousness and doing judgment. Once God covenanted with Noah that there would be no more floods of judgment, He wanted man to help restrain evil. We know from 2 Thessalonians that this continues to be a purpose. But when we believe that we are supposed to turn our other cheek and pray for our enemy in every situation, we are made enablers of evil and we do not restrain it. 2 Thessalonians makes it very clear: one important job of the church is restraining evil. But tradition has trained the church to take Matthew 5:38,39 out of context, and has made Matthew 15 just as real now as it was the day Jesus uttered it. We need to get delivered from tradition so we can walk in the way of the Lord.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

Scripture: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-7

2 Thessalonians 2:1-7 states, “*Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God[c] in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way...*” When we read verses 1-7 it is obvious whose job it is to restrain evil. That job is assigned to the church. Verse 7 says, “*For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way...*” So are we restraining? We have not been taken out of the way. The Holy Spirit is still being given to those who believe, with the assignment to restrain evil. The Greek word for restrain is **kat-ekh-o**. It means, ‘To take a stand against, to seize, to detain, to arrest, or to hold down.’ God the Father ordained that the church would be His anointed sheriff in the earth to seize, detain, arrest and hold down evil. We have the majority of the church that refuses to wear its badge – the authority of Christ. Most of today’s church refuses to seize, arrest, detain and hold down evil. But that is our job. That is an important reason why God established a covenant with Abraham. That covenant was to walk in righteousness **and** to do judgment. Abraham was God’s sheriff, and everyone who came after him was supposed to walk in that role. What happened to the present-day church’s badge and assignment? Have

we accepted our assignment to restrain evil? We have a job, and that job is to restrain evil so that the Great Commission can flourish!

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 3

Scripture: Matthew 21:33-38

**Kat-ekh-o** is a word that is very, very important in the foundational understanding of God's purpose for us in the earth. One of our purposes is to **kat-ekh-o**, or restrain evil. If the enemy, through tradition, can cause us to believe that we are supposed to only "turn-the-other-cheek" and "pray-for-the-enemy" every time the thief shows up, then he has stopped us from restraining evil. In that place it is difficult to understand that our purpose, is to restrain evil with prayer. We see that in much of the church, worldwide. Many people believe there is no judgment – Jesus took all judgment on Himself. We have all read the passages where satan took Jesus to 'church' and preached Him a message. He took Him right to the pinnacle of the temple and quoted Scripture, but he took Scripture out of context and lied. It looks like satan has done the same thing in most of today's churches with Matthew 5:38,39. He has tried to convince us to enable evil by never raising opposition to it. Yet 2 Thessalonians says that as long as the Holy Spirit is here operating in the church, His job, through His saints, is to restrain evil. We have denied the Holy Spirit a great deal of important action. Satan took us to 'church' and preached us a message – and many have believed the lies. Men and women who stand in the pulpit should not bear all the blame. It is the war we all fight with a religious spirit and tradition. Satan has always been a thief and one thing he tries to steal is a true understanding of Who God is and how He wants us to function and operate in the earth. We are in a war and we have an enemy. He first comes to steal, then kill, then destroy. Matthew 21:38 says, "*But when the vinedressers saw the son, they said among themselves, 'This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and seize/kat-ekh-o his inheritance.'*" Restraining evil is our inheritance and the enemy can only seize it if we let him!

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 4

Scripture: Matthew 21:39-44

Matthew 21:39-44 tells us what the enemy did in the parable. He killed the owner of the vineyard's son. But then verse 40 said what the owner of the vineyard did when he came. Verses 41,42 say that he would destroy the wicked men miserably and lease his vineyard to other vinedressers who would render to him the fruits in their seasons. When the owner came, his judgment would be manifest in the earth. Well, the Owner is right here – He is walking and living with us. Is His judgment manifest in the earth? If it is not, it is because we are not praying it. The stone which the builders rejected became the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing and was marvelous in our eyes. Verse 44 makes it clear, "...*whoever falls on this stone will be broken; but on whomever it falls, it will grind him to powder.*" The judicial prayers of the saints determine who falls and who is ground to powder. The enemy comes to steal, but the assignment of the church, through the Holy Spirit, is to **kat-ekh-o/restrain**. And **kat-ekh-o/restrains** is very clear in what it means. It is the anointing to be a sheriff. It is the anointing to take a stand against evil. It is the anointing to detain, to arrest and to hold down. It is the anointing to pray, guiding the Stone on who to grind to powder. **Kat-ekh-o/restrain** – either we do it or we do not. If we refuse, there is no complaint that we can offer before the Throne against the enemy stealing, killing and destroying. We can offer no complaint against evil if we refuse to enter into the way of the Lord and represent the judicial Christ. Restraining evil by praying judgment is our right and our responsibility!

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 5

Scripture: Luke 8:11-15

**Kat-ekh-o** is also used in a very positive sense. Now, the parable of the seed and the sower highlights the issue of whether we take out the stones, deal with issues that choke the seed and do what is necessary to make our soil good. **Kat-ekh-o** is used to describe that process. Verse 15 says, "*But the ones that fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it/kat-ekh-o and bear fruit with patience.*" In verse 15, **kat-ekh-o** is the refusing to let go, the detaining of all that is good. It is the keeping of all that is good, locking it up and refusing to let it go that causes a great, great harvest. So **kat-ekh-o** is not just used for praying judgment and restraining

evil. It is also used for the motivation of heart that says, ‘I refuse to let this go – this is something good and I am going to keep it.’ Flipping that over to the opposite side is, this is evil and I choose to restrain it. Just like we choose to restrain evil we can choose to hold fast to that which is good. And **kat-ekh-o** is used for both processes. It is for both refusing to let go of the good and refusing to allow the enemy to steal. **Kat-ekh-o** is a description of a noble and a good heart and a description of one who obeys the Holy Spirit and prays judicially on those who are trying to steal, kill and destroy!

#### MONDAY, APRIL 6

Scripture: 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

**Kat-ekh-o** plays a very important part of retaining and qualifying for our salvation for holding fast to what has been preached to us that is good. And where it appears in verse 2 it says, “*by which also you are saved, if you hold fast/kat-ekh-o that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.*” **Kat-ekh-o** is a central and core characteristic for anyone who is going to grow in Christ. On the positive, it means that we refuse to let go of the good Word that we hear. On the warfare side, it means we refuse to allow the enemy to steal because we choose to restrain him judicially. We should pray that those who refuse to fall on the Rock, have the Rock fall on them. Unless we are willing to pray the Rock on them, we are not really restraining evil. That is an important issue the church must come to grips with. Will we restrain evil or not? Are we going to try to play nice guy or are we going to walk in the way of the Lord? Restraining evil is difficult. There is often no joy in it and it is not easy – it is just commitment to growth followed by simple obedience.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Scripture: Acts 5:1-11

Peter learned firsthand that restraining evil had a very difficult side. He had to announce the grinding of powder over two people who refused to fall on the Rock. Those two people, one at a time, were first Ananias, and then his wife, Sapphira. Peter did not shrink from representing the Judicial Christ. But he fully followed the Holy Spirit. When we sign on to Christianity, we sign on to **kat-ekh-o**/keeping what is good and not letting it go, and we sign on to directing the Rock that falls and grinds to powder those who refuse to first fall on it themselves. How far are we willing to go with the Lord in the last days? Current events make very clear that we had better be prepared to go all the way. Whether it is martyrdom because it is what the Holy Spirit has ordained, or the announcing of grinding evil to powder. Fully following the Lord means we must be prepared for either one, knowing full well that those who try to take out our life may have just signed up to have theirs taken. And how many times will radical extremists kill the innocent until the judgment of God destroys them? We do not have the answer, but we do know this – judgment *will* destroy them. Jesus made it clear that those who live by the sword will die by the sword. If led by the Spirit, we should be praying it over every militant jihadist. And when one sheds innocent blood, the promise is that God will shed theirs unless there is repentance. When led by the Spirit, pray that every member demonic radical groups who sheds innocent blood be ground to powder! If we are going to pray judicially, we must make sure we have walked in the *whole* way of the Lord and done righteousness. Otherwise the fire we call down will fall on our own lives first. This is walking in righteousness. **Kat-ekh-o** means we are called to hold fast to what is good and we are called to restrain evil. But **kat-ekh-o** has to be applied by the Spirit. That is how we have to live our whole lives – by the Spirit. Just because we recognize evil does not mean we pray judicially. We only pray judicially when we are prompted by the Spirit, but always hold fast to what is good. Only the Holy Spirit can lead us in the application of **kat-ekh-o**.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8

Scripture: Genesis 18:16-19

Genesis 18:16-19 says, “*Then the men rose from there and looked toward Sodom, and Abraham went with them to send them on the way. And the Lord said, ‘Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the Lord, to do righteousness and justice, that the Lord may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him.’*” Abraham had a visitation

that caused him to pray judicially. And the very first judicial prayer in Scripture is in this chapter. Abraham found himself dealing with the fact that he had loved ones who were living in a city where an outcry had risen against that city and God was going to find out if judgment was needed. But before the Lord went there, He stopped by to see his covenant friend, Abraham. And He said He knew his covenant friend Abraham would keep the way of the Lord – to do righteousness and to do judgment. God was expecting Abraham to do judgment. When God stops by our house, expecting us to do judgment, will we be ready? Will we be prepared? Will we have walked in the righteousness required to pray the judgment necessary? God stopped by Abraham's house. Thank God that Abraham was prepared. Let us make sure that we are prepared to do judgment when the Holy Spirit leads. There was no arguing God out of destroying Sodom and Gomorrah. Not after He saw what was there. So in this case, Abraham walking in the way of the Lord meant partnering with God in doing judgment. Is it time we started doing judgment to save? We had better consider it, because it appears that time is here.

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 9

Scripture: Genesis 18:20-25

God made it clear to Abraham what had happened. There was an outcry that came to God against Sodom and Gomorrah. If God stopped by our house today, would He say the same thing, "There is an outcry that has come to Me against your nation"? Is it possible that He might hear an outcry against America because of abortion? Is it possible that an outcry has come to Him based on the sexual sin in our nation? Is it possible that the Lord might stop by to say an outcry has come to Him against our nation based on the policies of the Supreme Court? How would we handle a visit like Abraham had? Could we stop the judgment on the nation? Could we stop the judgment on a city if our family members are caught in it? What Abraham did was intercede, by saying to God exactly what God had said to him. God said, 'I know Abraham. He will do judgment.' Abraham said, "*Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*" It is not right to destroy the whole nation when there are righteous people in it. Individuals are judged individually when their personal cup is as full as Herod's was. But the righteous do not deserve the fate of the wicked. All those who are dramatically opposed to abortion and walk the way of the Lord do not deserve the fate of those who champion the murder of innocent children. "*Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*" Shall not the Judge of all the earth do the judgment appropriate? Can we pray that? God, you know what is appropriate for America, you know what is appropriate for those whose evil threatens the righteous. You know what is appropriate for those who champion sin and whose actions are filling America's cup of iniquity. Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right? Visit them and reward them according to their works! That is a judicially neutral prayer. "*Shall not the God of all the earth do right?*" God, visit them and reward them according to their works. That is how we pray what is right. That is how we pray judgment. If we have to pray judgment, pray in a judicially neutral way, 'God, visit them and reward them according to their works.' When we pray salvation for our family, pray: 'Lord, You promised our whole household would be saved. Therefore, arrest every member of our family and separate them. Separate them unto Yourself, in Jesus name.' The righteous and the wicked should not suffer the same fate. We have a promise for our family members. Pray, 'We have a promise that You will turn them back to righteousness – that You will save them! Therefore, deliver them, protect them, remove them and separate them from the fate of the wicked. Separate them and let Your sword fall between them and their friends who are ungodly. Let the sword fall between them and their ungodly friends, in Jesus' name. Separate them from destruction by Your Sword.' "*Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?*" Yes, He will. And when we pray judicially, we can expect His salvation for our family members. It is a covenant that we have been given and we are the ones who have to enforce it and act on it. Restraining evil is an assignment that's fruit can fall very close to home.

#### FRIDAY, APRIL 10

Scripture: Genesis 19:15-26

In Genesis 19, we see the power of the salvation prayer of Abraham. It worked! The angels honored it. They picked up Lot and his family and set them outside of the city. And the angels could not do anything until Lot's family arrived there. So, Abraham prayed judicially. God honored it and the angels made sure that his family was ushered to safety. What is interesting about this passage is both the power of Abraham's intercession, and the response of Lot's

wife. The angels made it clear to them that they were not to look back. Abraham prayed justice and that justice dictated they not look back. So it came to pass, when they had brought the family outside that he said, "*Escape for your life! Do not look behind you nor stay anywhere in the plain. Escape to the mountains, lest you be destroyed.*" Abraham's intercession got his family delivered from the city. But it did not protect his family when they disobeyed direct instructions of the angels. Lot's wife looked back. And because they had entertained the angels and had a meal where salt was on the table, the covenant of salt was in operation. Leviticus 2:13 declares a covenant of salt exists between God and His people. 2 Chronicles 13:5 states David's Throne is guaranteed by a covenant of salt! And when Lot's wife looked back, she was turned into an example of the covenant she broke. She became a pillar of salt. Abraham's intercession brought justice and judgment for Lot based on the condition of the heart! Can our judicial prayers save our family members? Yes – they can separate them when God has destruction ordained for a city or a region, it can separate them and save them. But our prayers will not save them from their own personal rebellion. And there are things that we need to make plain to our family and that is one of them. We can pray for them and make sure God's Hand of protection is over them. But we cannot save them from their own personal rebellion. No one can save us from rebellion and no one can save them from it. One of Abraham's assignments was that he would teach his children and his family after him. There are some things that we have to make clear and obeying God is one of them.

#### SATURDAY, APRIL 11

Scripture: Isaiah 9:6,7

The Christ and His government will go on forever and will not end. And He sits upon the Throne of David and over His Kingdom. Jesus sits on the Throne of King David to order it and establish it with judgment and justice, from the time Christ died, even forever. And the zeal of the Lord of Hosts will perform this. So one of the things that we have to face is that Jesus sits on the Throne of King David. And God has an Israel that is His – a New Jerusalem. It is very real. And this government will save the righteous. We can also expect that there will be an outpouring of the zeal of the Lord of Hosts in the last days and that zeal will propel us to do governmental, judicial things. Things that we likely never believed we could have walked in. The Holy Spirit has prepared a surprise or two for the end-times that His anointed army will arise and they will not be stopped! Are we part of that army? I believe we are.

#### SUNDAY, APRIL 12

Scripture: Matthew 12:15-21

We are told in Matthew 12:15-21, "*But when Jesus knew it, He withdrew from there. And great multitudes followed Him, and He healed them all. Yet He warned them not to make Him known, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: 'Behold! My Servant whom I have chosen, My Beloved in whom My soul is well pleased! I will put My Spirit upon Him, And He will declare justice to the Gentiles. He will not quarrel nor cry out, Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench, Till He sends forth justice to victory; And in His name Gentiles will trust.'*" Jesus did something for us. What He did was, He took judgment to victory. Taking judgment to victory meant that we have access to Spirit-led judgment – anywhere, anyplace, anytime. As a matter of fact, our access to judgment is one thing that restrains evil. We can pray it, we can walk in it, we can ask for it, we can declare it and we can decree it, as led by the Holy Spirit. Jesus went there and made it available to us. The question is, are we saying yes to judgment that restrains evil?

#### MONDAY, APRIL 13

Scripture: John 16:7-11

In John 16:7-11, Jesus made it clear that the judgment He took to victory is now available, by the Holy Spirit, to every prepared saint in the church. He will convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. So the Holy Spirit is the Author of the judgment that we are going to walk in. He made it available. The question is, are we going there? We can go there. The early church went there. Will we walk there with the Lord? The Holy Spirit is ready to take us. He knows how to restrain evil. Will we go with Him? Will we follow His lead and pray what He gives us to pray? Will we

prophecy what He gives us to prophesy? Will we do what He calls us to do? That is the issue. We have a Judicial Christ and He desires that we would arise and grow! Will we represent Him? I trust that we will.

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Scripture: 2 Kings 1:9-15

In 2 Kings 1:9-15, Elijah was faced with a contrary king, and Elijah had to restrain evil. So when the king sent a captain with 50 men and commanded Elijah to come down, Elijah prayed and called fire down from heaven. And when he prayed, fire came down and consumed the men. Then the king sent another captain to him with 50 more and Elijah prayed and the judicial display was repeated. The king sent **another** captain down with 50 men. Only this one dropped down to his knees and pleaded for his life. The captain said, "*Man of God, please let my life and the life of these fifty servants of yours be precious in your sight. Look, fire has come down from heaven and burned up the first two captains of fifties with their fifties. But let my life now be precious in your sight.*" Elijah restrained evil, "*And the angel of the Lord said to Elijah, 'Go down with him; do not be afraid of him.' So he arose and went down with him to the king.*" The Bible is full of examples where men are called to restrain evil. A number of years ago, the Lord gave me this passage and said that I was about to see a season where political rulers were going to command church leaders to bow their knee. He gave me this passage and He emphasized the word translated, "*come down.*" The Hebrew word is **yaw-rad** and means, 'To bow down, to prostrate yourself, or to subdue.' This season demonstrates that political leaders, presidents and judges render decisions attempting to **yaw-rad** believers into ineffectiveness. The Lord told me that for every **yaw-rad** that a judge or politician issued, we were to pray double back upon them. Every time the king issued a **yaw-rad** to Elijah, two **yaw-rads** came back upon the king. Whatever the biblical penalty is for what courts and government officials decree in their arrogance against God, it is our responsibility to pray a double portion of the Rock grinding them to powder. Whatever the Bible says is the penalty for dictating abortion or shedding innocent blood, is what we must pray against those championing or advancing abortion. If the government is going to command the church to be silent, then we pray the Angel of the Lord silence those who demand the church be silent. We can and must release the judicial anointing by what we pray, what we declare and what we decree. Because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever, judgment is simple. When the Lord visits people, He can reward them according to their works. May the angels visit all of our leaders and politicians and reward the unrepentant according to their works!

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15

Scripture: Psalm 97:9,10

There is a very important aspect of developing in the judicial that was very much a part of David's army. We are told to renew our mind according to Scripture. Psalm 97:9,10 says, "*For You, Lord, are most high above all the earth; You are exalted far above all gods. You who love the Lord, hate evil! He preserves the souls of His saints; He delivers them out of the hand of the wicked.*" God's judicial comes out of His utter disdain for the destruction that those who do evil bring. Jesus bought and paid for our right to place a covenant demand for justice! In today's culture "love" is defined as forgiving and not judging – turning the other cheek and not resisting. But if this so-called "love" is the definition of Christianity, do we hate anything? Jesus hated things in the New Testament! The truth is, we are called to hate evil. The question is, will we?

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 16

Scripture: Psalm 139:13-24

David was a man after God's own heart. And notice what he said, "*Do I not hate them, O Lord, who hate You? And do I not loathe those who rise up against You? I hate them with perfect hatred; I count them my enemies.*" And immediately in verses 23,24 he asked God to search his heart, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart; Try me, and know my anxieties; And see if there is any wicked way in me, And lead me in the way everlasting.*" David could say, 'I hate those who hate You, I hate them with a perfect hatred...' and then he could invite God to search his heart, knowing full well that he was in the right place. Are we anywhere close to that? If we are going to be a man like David, we have to not only get close to that, we have to become that! The question is, will we?

## FRIDAY, APRIL 17

Scripture: Proverbs 8:12,13

Proverbs 8:12,13 says, "*I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion. The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.*" What we are finding is, that just like the Lord has a way that we are to walk and traverse, the enemy has a way that he tries to lead people down. And the enemy's way is the way of evil, and it starts with a perverse mouth, goes onto perverse action and then stealing, killing and destroying. God knows what you and I face with the enemy.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 18

Scripture: Psalm 5:4-10

Psalm 5:4-10 is God's view on the issue of evil. It says, "*For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness, Nor shall evil dwell with You. The boastful shall not stand in Your sight; You hate all workers of iniquity. You shall destroy those who speak falsehood; The Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. But as for me, I will come into Your house in the multitude of Your mercy; In fear of You I will worship toward Your holy temple. Lead me, O Lord, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face. For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction; Their throat is an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue. Pronounce them guilty, O God! Let them fall by their own counsels; Cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions, For they have rebelled against You.*" God does not take pleasure in wickedness and the boastful should not stand in His sight. The workers of iniquity He will destroy. He abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man. God makes it very clear that He pronounces them guilty, they will fall by their own counsels, He will cast them out in the multitudes of their transgressions because they rebelled against Him. We must build God's Word concerning evil into our judicial foundation. A good place to start is to meditate on and memorize Psalm 5. And then to walk it out in prayer.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 19

Scripture: Psalm 18:31-42

Psalm 18:31-42 says, "*For who is God, except the Lord? And who is a rock, except our God? It is God who arms me with strength, And makes my way perfect. He makes my feet like the feet of deer, And sets me on my high places. He teaches my hands to make war, So that my arms can bend a bow of bronze. You have also given me the shield of Your salvation; Your right hand has held me up, Your gentleness has made me great. You enlarged my path under me, So my feet did not slip. I have pursued my enemies and overtaken them; Neither did I turn back again till they were destroyed. I have wounded them, So that they could not rise; They have fallen under my feet. For You have armed me with strength for the battle; You have subdued under me those who rose up against me. You have also given me the necks of my enemies, So that I destroyed those who hated me. They cried out, but there was none to save; Even to the Lord, but He did not answer them. Then I beat them as fine as the dust before the wind; I cast them out like dirt in the streets.*" The Lord teaches our hands to war and makes our arms bend a bow of steel. He gives us a shield of our salvation and He makes it clear that once we go to war, we pursue our enemy; we wound them, do not turn back, subdue them under our feet and destroy those who hate us for His name sake. When they cry out, there was none to save them. God did not answer, and chose us to beat them as fine as the dust before the wind and to throw them out like dirt in the street. This is the reality of how God thinks when He goes to war. When He goes to war, He does not stop until He is totally victorious. We need to think that way, as the Spirit leads us to arise victorious in dealing with evil.

## MONDAY, APRIL 20

Scripture: Psalm 55:9-11

David is considering the betrayal of his best friend and those who refused to accept the fact that he repented and was restored. He said in his prayer, "*Destroy, O Lord, and divide their tongues, For I have seen violence and strife in the city. Day and night they go around it on its walls; Iniquity and trouble are also in the midst of it. Destruction is in its midst; Oppression and deceit do not depart from its streets.*" So David is praying for God to step in and destroy the

enemy that has come against him, which would be Absalom and all those who had taken the city and the Throne from him. He was asking for God's intervention and we know the story. David got God's intervention at every level until the enemy was completely destroyed and Jerusalem was back in his hands. He did not relent in his prayers. With God's guidance, David pressed into total and complete victory.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

Scripture: Psalm 55:12-15

David's best friend Ahithophel became Absalom's counselor. And this for David was a major and painful betrayal – so much so that he had to send Hushai under cover into the city in the hopes that Hushai's counsel would be listened to instead of Ahithophel's. If Hushai could win the argument of the day, then David knew he was going to regain Jerusalem. God heard David's cry and He answered by sending Ahithophel to the grave. The city was restored and the way of the Lord prevailed. Will we be able to say at the end of this year that the way of the Lord prevailed? It all starts with doing righteousness, so we can pray judgment.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22

Scripture: Joshua 23:11-13 (New Century version)

The New Century version of Joshua 23:11-13 says, *"Or else if you turn away from the way of the Lord and be friends with these nations, these that remain among you and make marriages with them and go into them and they with you, know for certain that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations from before you. They shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this land which the Lord your God has given you."* God warned the nation, through Joshua, to not turn away from the way of the Lord. If they turned away from the way of the Lord, God would become an adversary to them and they would not survive. And the warning is exactly what happened to Israel. It took a while, but it developed. That tells us that the way of the Lord is very important; it is in fact critical. God deals with people according to what they do with the way of the Lord. If you and I accept the way of the Lord and walk in it, God deals with us accordingly. If we refuse to walk in the way of the Lord, we may be looking at national destruction. Surely we are smart enough to say yes and amen to the way of the Lord.

THURSDAY, APRIL 23

Scripture: Judges 2:21-23

Judges 2:21-23 says, *"I also will no longer drive out before them any of the nations which Joshua left when he died, so that through them I may test Israel, whether they will keep the ways of the Lord, to walk in them as their fathers kept them, or not. Therefore the Lord left those nations, without driving them out immediately; nor did He deliver them into the hand of Joshua."* God left an adversary in front of Israel so that the next generation would prove themselves as to whether they would keep the way of the Lord. If they would not first do righteousness and then do judgment to overcome their enemies, then they were not doing the way of the Lord. That is likely the reason God left the adversary. That brings us to a question – is there adversity in our lives that God has left to find out whether or not we will keep the way of the Lord? Is that possible? We know He is the same yesterday, today and forever, so we know that it is. Is there adversity in our lives that God is leaving there to see whether or not we will keep the way of the Lord? Will we do what it takes to overcome it? If we are willing to walk in the righteousness and then do the judgment necessary to overcome adversity, we keep the way of the Lord. We are either willing to do judgment or we are not. We are either willing to go to war and fight or we are not. Are we willing to fight? Are we willing to keep the way of the Lord? That is a question we might have to face. We either are or we are not. And God may leave adversity in our lives to prove us as to whether we will keep the way of the Lord. But we cannot do judgment until we do righteousness. Righteousness is a qualifier to do judgment. Are we keeping the way of the Lord or are we not?

## FRIDAY, APRIL 24

Scripture: Judges 3:1-4

Judges 3:1-4 says, “Now these are the nations which the Lord left, that He might test Israel by them, that is, all who had not known any of the wars in Canaan (this was only so that the generations of the children of Israel might be taught to know war, at least those who had not formerly known it), namely, five lords of the Philistines, all the Canaanites, the Sidonians, and the Hivites who dwelt in Mount Lebanon, from Mount Baal Hermon to the entrance of Hamath. And they were left, that He might test Israel by them, to know whether they would obey the commandments of the Lord, which He had commanded their fathers by the hand of Moses.” How simple can that be? If there is adversity in front of us, we keep the way of the Lord and we move toward putting it under our feet. Or else, we reject the way of the Lord and we start living by their rules. But if we start living by the rules of our enemies, we will lose our nations. We cannot keep a nation if we enable filling it with iniquity. There is no way we can keep our nations if we play by the enemy’s rules. God knew that every generation has to learn to be warriors and be willing to fight what is evil. We must be willing to restrain evil, or we make little headway for the Kingdom. And it is a daily choice. It means we must adopt an attitude against it. The attitude David had was to hate evil with a perfect hatred. We are hard pressed to find believers who think in those terms anymore. Giving in to false doctrine and giving in to the enemy is easier than fighting, but that has to change. The church either changes, or we will likely lose our nation.

## SATURDAY, APRIL 25

Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:21,22

At the end of David's life, we find him declaring this, “*The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the ways of the Lord, And have not wickedly departed from my God.*” David knew how to repent. He spent his whole life keeping the way of the Lord. Is that why he was a man after God's own heart? Is that why God blessed him with tremendous victory? He kept the way of the Lord. And because he kept the way of the Lord, he had the victory of God. One of the things that we need to realize is if we commit to the way of the Lord, then we can expect the same kind of fruit. It is time to believe for it, it is time to ask for it, it is time to call it forth. It is time for that expectation; we need it as a people in the last days.

## SUNDAY, APRIL 26

Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:23-25

In verses 23-25 David declares, “*For all His judgments were before me; And as for His statutes, I did not depart from them. I was also blameless before Him, And I kept myself from my iniquity. Therefore the Lord has recompensed me according to my righteousness, According to my cleanness in His eyes.*” David was making quite a statement here – he kept himself from iniquity. He did that with the way of the Lord. All God's judgments were before him, and all His statutes. David did not depart from them. He was blameless before God. He had kept himself from iniquity, therefore the Lord had recompensed him according to his righteousness and his cleanness in God's eyes. But what about David's sin? That was covered by the covenant of Sure Mercy. Sure Mercy accepts repentance and restores us as if we never fell from grace. David was talking as one who had walked in Sure Mercy, and one who believed the promises of Sure Mercy. He was a sinner who, by repentance through covenant, appeared before God just as if he never sinned. David is a witness to us. Our mistakes do not have to hold us back. We have the same covenant!

## MONDAY, APRIL 27

Scripture: 2 Kings 21:19-23

We are told in 2 Kings 21:19-23, “*Amon was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned two years in Jerusalem. His mother's name was Meshullemeth the daughter of Haruz of Jotbah. And he did evil in the sight of the Lord, as his father Manasseh had done. So he walked in all the ways that his father had walked; and he served the idols that his father had served, and worshiped them. He forsook the Lord God of his fathers, and did not walk in the way of the Lord. Then the servants of Amon conspired against him, and killed the king in his own house.*” How do you shorten

your rule or shorten your life? Choose not to walk in the way of the Lord. It is exactly what happened to Amon. He reigned all of two years. David reigned 40, and most of the kings who walked in the way of the Lord reigned about 40 years. Amon chose not to and he reigned for two. Is there a lesson there? One that is obvious to anyone. How long do we want to walk with God and see His rule and reign? Choose the way of the Lord!

#### TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 17:1-9

In 2 Chronicles 17:1-9, we find an evaluation of Jehoshaphat. He strengthened himself in Israel, the Lord was with him, he walked in the ways of his father David and he did not seek the Baals. Verse 6 says, "And his heart took delight in the **ways of the Lord**; moreover he removed the high places and wooden images from Judah. Also in the third year of his reign he sent his leaders, Ben-Hail, Obadiah, Zechariah, Nethanel, and Michaiah, to teach in the cities of Judah." The entire nation was blessed because King Jehoshaphat delighted himself in the **ways of the Lord**. This is a clear pattern. Those who reject the **way of the Lord** rule only for a very short period of time. Those who embrace the **ways of the Lord** have a full life. King Jehoshaphat certainly did, as did a variety of the other kings. And it did not mean they were not challenged, it did not mean they did not have tremendous warfare. But in that warfare, God was with them and because they kept the way of the Lord, God went with them into battle, delivered them, and brought them into tremendous victory. King Jehoshaphat found it. He went to battle and put the praisers out in front. And then they went to collect the spoil. King Jehoshaphat achieved some awesome testimonies, and where did they come from? He chose to walk in the **way of the Lord**.

#### WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29

Scripture: Psalm 18:16-21

In Psalm 18:16-21, King David says this in verses 20,21, "The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness; According to the cleanliness of my hands He has recompensed me. For I have kept the **ways of the Lord**, And have not wickedly departed from my God." King David knew that the source of his victory and the source of God's intervention in his behalf were keeping the way of the Lord. What is stunning to us in our day is the **way of the Lord** consists of both doing righteousness **and** doing judgment. Most of us have been taught in our Christian training to be weary of ever doing judgment or judging anyone. But that is a religious spirit. The true way of the Lord is to do righteousness so we can do judgment for God. King David said it was the key to his life. And who does not want to be Davidic?

#### THURSDAY, APRIL 30

Scripture: Psalm 25:8-15

Psalm 25:10 says, "All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies." Are all the ways of the Lord mercy and truth? If we realize that the ways of the Lord are **first** mercy and truth, we realize that developing mercy is the beginning of great victory because God is first merciful and then judicial. Mercy triumphs over judgment where righteous intercessors are found. We first extend mercy and if led by the Spirit, we reluctantly have to pray judgment if people will not turn. If led by the Spirit, we have to pray, 'Lord, if they will not turn, then reward them according to their works, cut them off, remove them, etc.' God's ways and His paths are **all** mercy and truth. And that means our application has to follow mercy and truth. It is essential that we remember that. It is absolutely critical that we understand mercy first. If it is all God's ways, then it is mercy first! Therefore, we have to act accordingly.

#### ITINERARY

4/17-4/18/15	Midland, TX	The Bridge Midland 10/30 Fri 7PM, 11/1 Sat 10AM	Pastor Keith McLellan 432-0967-3470
4/19-4/20 /15	Andrews, TX	City of Refuge Church, 1501 North Main , Andrews TX79714 Sun 10:30 AM,6 PM,Mon 7pm	Pastor Larry Brewer 915-523-6800
4/24/15	Placerville, CA	Templo El Mesias, 680 Bee St, Placerville, CA 7:00 PM	Pastors Abel & Magdalena Torres 530-622-8054
4/26/15	Placerville, CA	New Wine Christian Fellowship 680 Bee St, Placerville, CA 9:30 AM	Pastors John & Cindy Cowper 530-622-8054

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